

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten abstract:

Disclosed is a process for separating and recovering ~~3-hydroxypropionic~~ 3-hydroxypropionic acid from an aqueous solution comprising ~~3-hydroxypropionic~~ 3-hydroxypropionic acid and acrylic acid, comprising contacting the aqueous solution with an organic extractant, other than ethyl acetate. Also disclosed are processes for separating acrylic acid from aqueous solutions comprising acrylic acid and an organic extractant involving back extraction with water, or distillation in the presence of water. Further disclosed is a process for separating and recovering ~~3-hydroxypropionic~~ 3-hydroxypropionic acid and acrylic acid from an aqueous solution comprising ~~3-hydroxypropionic~~ 3-hydroxypropionic acid and acrylic acid.